

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of Claims 1-34 of the present application.

In reviewing the Examiner's Amendment to line 8 of Claims 2 and 4 that was attached to the Notice of Allowability, an error in these amended claims has been noted. In this regard, the recital in these claims of a "device control means" is now inaccurate because the recited control by this "device control means" of the image control means "to transfer the control program stored in said first external recording medium is impossible as the "first external recording medium" is not recited to be "applied to said recording media interface." Note lines 10-11 of Claim 2 and lines 9-12 of Claim 4 that recite that instead of the first external recording medium being "applied to said recording media interface," the controlled transfer only occurs "when a second external recording medium storing said control program of the corresponding extension device is applied to said recording media interface." Thus, it is only this second external recording medium of Claims 2 and 4 that can have the control program stored therein transferred "to a program memory of the corresponding extension device" because it is this second external recording medium of Claims 2 and 4 that is recited to be "applied to said recording media interface."

Accordingly, instead of the improper change made by the Examiner's Amendment to add --first-- before "external" in line 8 of Claims 2 and 4, the proper correction would have been to change the existing line 8 recital of these claims ("said external recording medium") to read --a second external recording medium-- to be consistent with the disclosure and the further recital in Claims 2 and 8 of the second external medium being the external recording medium "applied to said recording media interface." This change would have also then have been consistent with the Claim 18 recital of "the device controller controls the image controller to transfer the control program stored in a second external recording medium

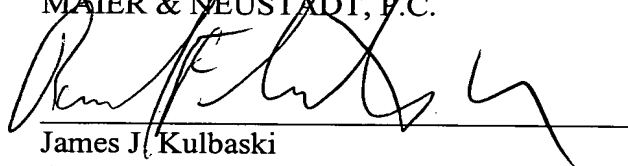
through the download exclusive communicator to a program memory of a corresponding one of the extension devices when the second external recording medium storing the control program of the corresponding extension device is applied to the recording media interface” (emphasis added), unlike the actual change made to line 8 of Claims 2 and 4.

Accordingly, as the change offered by the present amendment after allowance as to line 8 of Claims 2 and 4 is clearly needed to correct the erroneous change made by the Examiner’s Amendment to these claims and as this change is supported by Claim 18 and the instant disclosure as noted above, entry of the present amendment is submitted to be in order as to correcting a purely formal error without requiring any new search or raising any other examination related issues.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this amendment under 37 CFR §1.312 should be entered as being directed only to matters of form.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,648

Raymond F. Cardillo, Jr.
Registration No. 40,440

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

JJK/RFC/jmp

I:\ATTY\RFC\21\219656.AM312.DOC